The A. F. of L. Weekly News Service gives news accounts and editorial interpretations of matters affecting labor occurring in the industrial, legislative, and judicial fields, and contains other information of benefit to the trade union movement.

AMERICAN FEDERATION OF LABOR

WEEKLY NEWS SERVICE

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Samuel Gompers Said:
The lesson of organized labor has been taught for ages. Our country is a union. Where do we not find organization? The board of trade and the chamber of commerce are organization. It is essential to the banker to organize and it is essential to the broker to organize. Then why is it not essential for the laboring man?

WHOLE NO. 2026 WILLIAM GREEN, *President* WASHINGTON, D. C., TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 7, 1950 GEORGE MEANY, *Secretary-Treasurer* VOL. 40, NO. 6

Road Forced Strike And Made a Million

By DAN SMYTH
Chicago Correspondent for AFL News Service

Chicago.—On March 27, 1948, some 1,300 AFL employes of the Chicago, North Shore & Milwaukee Ry. struck for a wage increase. They shut down an electric railroad between Chicago and Milwaukee and several tributary bus lines for three months.

The workers were entitled to a wage increase of 15½ cents an hour, according to a Presidential fact-finding board. But the company said it couldn't afford it unless fares were raised.

During the strike, the state commerce commission gave the company permission to raise fares 10 percent. The company then settled the strike. The road began running again.

On Jan. 30, 1950, nearly two years later, a document was filed in a federal court at Chicago which makes interesting reading for the 72,000 commuters and the 1,300 workers who suffered during the 3-month strike.

It was filed by three small stockholders of the North Shore. It demanded the return of $1,245,000 to stockholders of the North Shore.

Principal defendants in the suit are three big wheels in the American transportation industry—rich, powerful men who have been closely associated for 25 years.

They are Glenn W. Traer, Chicago coal man who is an officer and heavy investor in the Greyhound bus system; E. Roy Fitzgerald who, with his brothers, controls the National City Lines, Inc., bus empire; and Wheelock Whitney, another Greyhound millionaire.

Lesser defendants include J. H. M. Clinch, president of the North Shore; his predecessor as president, Bernard J. Fallon; and Francis B. Murphy, former Illinois state director of labor, who in the opinion of Reuben G. Soderstrom, president of the Illinois State Federation of Labor, is the worst labor director Illinois ever had.

The suit charges the defendants conspired to defraud stockholders of the North Shore by a fantastic financial deal involving several small Wisconsin bus companies. The suit says they worked it like this:

1. While the North Shore was in bankruptcy, they quietly bought up the busted railroad's bonds at discount prices. Then, when the North Shore was reorganized, Nov. 1, 1946, they put their own men on the board of directors and gained control.

2. Shore Line bought four Wisconsin bus properties from Henry P. Bruner, Wisconsin utility magnate, for $600,000, and organized a fifth from scratch.

3. Shore Line realized $600,000 in salvage from one of the companies, then sold the rest of it and all the other four companies to the North Shore for $1,245,000.

4. Then Shore Line dissolved and paid its stockholders enormous liquidating dividends from the profit on the deal. Traer, the biggest stockholder, was paid more than $155,000 for his share of the liquidation.

That's not all. Bruner's income tax return for 1946 reported to the state of Wisconsin, a public document, showed he paid less than $60,000 for the properties he sold to Shore Line for $600,000, which were resold to North Shore (after subastraction of $600,000 worth of salvage) for $1,245,000.

Wow! And those bus drivers, already making $1.12½ an hour, shut down the railroad for three months until they forced the poor, old, busted road to pay them 15½ cents more.

Jobless Total Is Now at New High

Washington.—The Census Bureau reported that unemployment rose to a postwar high of 4,480,000 in mid-January.

Secretary of Commerce Charles Sawyer said it was due largely to seasonal layoffs and bad weather which caused the halting of construction and farm work.

The estimated number of jobless on Jan. 14 was 991,000 greater than on Dec. 10 and 1,816,000 greater than in January 1949.

Total employment was estimated at 56,947,000 persons, down, 1,609,000 from December. The total a year ago was 57,414,000.

The AFL estimates that jobs for 61,000,000 persons must be provided to keep unemployment at a 2,000,000 average. It pointed out that 5,000,000 unemployed is generally regarded as a "danger" point for the economic prosperity of the country.

Starr Sees Need Of New Incentives

Ithaca, N. Y.—Mark Starr, educational director of the AFL International Ladies Garment Workers Union, says that "a major problem confronting labor and management is the search for new incentives."

"The old incentives of individual gain, professional advancement and interest in work have lost their previous power," he writes in the quarterly "Industrial and Labor Relations Review" of the New York State School of Industrial and Labor Relations at Cornell University.

Mr. Starr said the workers must be kept informed, given some security and regularity of employment, and some group service as incentives to cooperation.

He said that too often the modern corporation robs the worker of incentives by making him feel overlooked and taken for granted, by spurning his suggestions, by not informing him about the corporation's prospects, by firing him arbitrarily.

GAINS AVERAGE 3 CENTS

San Francisco.—The California Federation of Labor reports that wage and other gains won by AFL unions during December 1949 averaged 3 cents an hour for 19,000 workers covered. The average gain for 9,000 of the total was 6 cents hourly.

U. S. Health Plan Unlike British

Miami, Fla.—Federal Security Administrator Oscar Ewing told the AFL executive council that President Truman's health insurance plan, supported by the AFL, is not similar to the British plan.

Mr. Ewing said our plan is an insurance program paid for by payroll taxes on workers and employers whereas the British have socialized medicine paid for by the government out of general revenues.

He urged the AFL to prepare and distribute as widely as possible these pertinent facts about the differences of the U. S. and British plans to counteract the $3,000,000 "smear" campaign by the American Medical Association against federal health insurance.

Mr. Ewing said the AMA has succeeded to an alarming degree in spreading misrepresentations about the health program.

Pittsburgh Fights Court Injunction

Pittsburgh.—Common Pleas Judge A. Marshall Thompson has issued a temporary injunction requested by the Pittsburgh board of education against picketing by the AFL Building Trades Council and 24 AFL unions.

George J. Walter, president of the Building Trades Council, has resigned from the school board in protest against the board's labor policy and his successor, John A. Feigel, of the AFL International Typographical Union, is opposed to the board's seeking an injunction. Both have the support of William J. Hart of the CIO United Steelworkers, another labor member on the school board.

The board's labor members charge that the injunction was sought without full board approval.

It was asked to end picketing by AFL union members who have refused to work since the board abandoned its policy of adjusting wage rates of its 90 maintenance employes to prevailing rates in private industry. The board has replaced them with non-union men.

Other AFL and CIO unions refused to cross picket lines set up by the AFL workers who have been replaced.

Judge Thompson said "we want to stop picketing."

The Pittsburgh Central Labor Union condemned a later decision by the school board to seek a permanent injunction. The CIO Industrial Union Council took similar action. The two labor members on the board were outvoted, 9 to 2, in their attempt to obtain arbitration of the dispute.

Report Lenten Foods In Good Supply

Washington. — The U. S. Department of Agriculture reports that a wide variety of main-dish items suitable for lenten menus will be in plentiful supply in March.

In addition to eggs and pork products, markets may anticipate liberal supplies of broilers, fryers and hens; manufactured dairy products, fresh and frozen fish; dried beans; canned lima beans, canned corn, canned peaches and white potatoes.

Doherty Talks Stamps With Officials

Washington.—AFL Vice President W. C. Doherty (right), president of the National Association of Letter Carriers, discusses the Samuel Gompers commemorative stamp at first day ceremonies Jan. 27, 1950 with (l. to r.) Assistant Secretary of Labor Ralph Wright, a member of the AFL International Typographical Union; Assistant Secretary of Labor Philip M. Kaiser, and Undersecretary of Labor Michael J. Galvin.

Thomas Sees Labor Political Program One of Big Gains

By ARNOLD BEICHMAN
New York Correspondent for AFL News Service

New York.—Norman Thomas, who says he's a failure (that's what he told the writer a few days ago in an interview) was given a testimonial luncheon Feb. 4 which brought out the great names in labor, public life and social welfare.

They came because they thought Norman Thomas has been a success.

Mr. Thomas, the perennial Socialist who's run for about every public office an American can run for from President on down, has gotten a lot of people mad at him at one time or another in a political career that goes back to the first World War.

Some of those people who got mad at him have included trade unionists. Regardless of the reason, trade unionists agree that in the clinches one of the best friends the labor movement ever had is this 65-year-old ex-Presbyterian preacher.

That's why AFL President William Green wrote:

"The masses of the people and their friends in the United States hold Norman Thomas in high regard and esteem . . . I join with those who will be in attendance at the testimonial luncheon given in honor of Norman Thomas in paying him a deserved tribute, in commending him upon his devotion to the principles and policies which he expounded and to express my appreciation of the educational services which he has rendered the people of the nation during his lifetime."

Other AFL international presidents sponsored the testimonial luncheon—John P. Burke, David Dubinski, Hugo Ernst, Earl W. Jimerson, H. L. Mitchell, A. Philip Randolph, Daniel J. Tobin, Max Zaritsky and Arnold S. Zander.

In an interview, Mr. Thomas took a long look around over the past 30 years and said that in his mind the three biggest and most encouraging accomplishments by the trade union movement are:

1. Development of a real political action program.

2. The tremendous progress being made in getting rid of racism.

3. Its ~~strong~~ international point of view, particularly the recently organized International Confederation of Free Trade Unions and the job of the AFL in Latin America.

Mr. Thomas' relationship with the labor movement goes back to a long time ago when he decided that socialism is "the way out." He fought for the share-croppers in Arkansas, the silk workers in New Jersey, textile workers in the south. In fact, wherever there was an unpopular cause or a "lost" cause, Thomas was to be found, as he is today. picketing, lecturing, writing, orating and organizing.

He may be a socialist, but to him it is even more important to say that he is a democratic socialist because to him democracy comes before everything else. He is a veteran in the struggle against Communist and Fascist totalitarianism.

BRITISH UNIONS OK GOVERNMENT

London.—The British Trades Union Congress has appealed to organized labor through the country to vote for the Labor government in the general election Feb. 23.

The congress issued a manifesto which said that few people in Great Britain or the world have anything to gain from a change of government in Britain.

It acknowledged the financial aid received from the United States and British Commonwealth countries since the end of the war, pointed to social welfare advances of the government since 1945, and remarked that one of the first acts performed by the labor government in 1945 was to set the trade unions free from the restrictive and punitive trades dispute legislation passed by the Conservative government after the 1926 general strike.

New York Official Says Costly Homes No Fault of Labor

Miami, Fla. — Organized labor is NOT to blame for the high cost of available homes.

The AFL has long said so. Now comes Herman T. Stichman, New York State Housing Commissioner, to back the AFL.

"The responsibility for high costs has not been that of labor," Mr. Stichman told the AFL executive council and the Building and Construction Trades Departments in meetings here. He said the blame rests with "speculative builders" who "skimmed the cream and gouged the public with high rentals."

"As we look back over the years since the war, we see that the national housing economy is not improving," he said. "At the cessation of hostilities, there was no effective way to meet the tremendous demands for housing throughout the country from families who had been doubled up, from veterans who wanted homes of their own, as well as from young people who sought to marry, and this was not due to the results of the war alone.

"There are still in this fifth year since the cessation of hostilities about 1,000,000 persons living in converted barracks, in quonset huts, and in other temporary shelter throughout the country."

Mr. Stichman urged the AFL to take a greater part in obtaining adequate housing programs. He told of New York state's program and the cooperative projects of the AFL Amalgamated Meat Cutters Union and International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers Local 3 in New York City.

He said that organized labor had been "unfairly accused" of having failed to train sufficient apprentices and of inadequate production.

"New York state's program proves that the responsibility for high costs has not been that of labor, because we have used the same workingmen, the same materials, the same land, and the same lenders, but we have watched and limited the profits to a reasonable amount," Mr. Stichman said.

Sam Gompers--and '50

(From Weekly News Letter of California State Federation of Labor)

San Francisco.—The President of the United States addressed the Samuel Gompers Centennial Year dinner in Washington, D. C., while the Vice President of the nation and more than 1,000 men and women jammed the Hotel Statler affair in honor of the founding genius of the American Federation of Labor.

It wasn't always that way. In the time of his prominence Sam Gompers was maligned and despised by the insolent leaders of American capital.

His cause was tolerated, but never accepted by the political charlatans of his era. Their affection was reserved for others—for the men who governed party funds in Wall Street and allied financial centers.

In this hostile environment Gompers established the foundations of the largest free labor organization the world has ever known. He built a movement which survived the villainous attacks of 19th century industrialists and which has become in our time a mighty instrument for national advance.

The current prototypes of 19th century reaction acknowledge the Gompers contribution. They place him with the heroic figures of American history.

Labor accepts this belated recognition with pride and satisfaction. But labor must repudiate the interpretation of Gompers given the nation in this centennial year by the commercial press.

The controlled press would tell us that Gompers limited the ambitions of labor to wages, hours and conditions of work.

That press would tell that Gompers abhorred the concept of political action by labor.

The press has tailored the memory of Sam Gompers to suit its own economic and political tastes.

However, facts defy this press fiction. Gompers gave legitimate emphasis to the concentration on wages, hours, and conditions of work, because without these essentials there could be no national labor movement.

But Sam Gompers never renounced labor's pursuit of a better life for all. Nor did he ever renounce the idea of political action.

It was Sam Gompers who said: "We must make manifest the fact that we have political power and that we intend to use it; otherwise the ballot will become an impotent weapon." (Report to AFL Convention, Toronto, Ont., Canada, Nov., 1909.)

It was Sam Gompers who said: "The vital legislation now required can be more readily secured through education of the public mind and the appeal to its conscience, supplemented by energetic political activity on the part of trade unionists than by any other method." (From Annual Report to AFL Convention, Atlantic City, N. J., June, 1919.)

The centennial year of Sam Gompers' birth will be one of test and trial for the movement he founded.

It is therefore imperative that we find inspiration and courage in his warning that political virility is necessary if labor would seek a finer world for all who work.

Labor will honor Sam Gompers best in 1950 by organizing the unorganized and by driving from public life all who would strangle the cause to which he gave his days and years.

Council Affirms Solidarity With Workers Everywhere

Miami, Fla. — The AFL executive council pledged to "redouble our efforts" to build world labor solidarity and took steps to make the AFL stronger in the fight for a more abundant life here at home.

As the council neared adjournment of its midwinter meeting, the members:

1. Voted an invitation to be issued in 60 days to the International Association of Machinists to reaffiliate its 600,000 members with the AFL.

2. Urged aid to help India overcome its immediate food difficulties, develop public education and improve public health.

3. Gave full backing to the new International Confederation of Free Trades Unions formed in London last December.

4. Opposed U. S. recognition for Franco Spain and Communist China.

5. Urged the U. S. Senate to ratify the United Nations convention outlawing genocide—mass killing of national, racial and religious groups.

6. Demanded immediate congressional action to repeal excise taxes on transportation, theater tickets and other consumer items.

7. Agreed to comply with a request of Federal Security Administrator Oscar Ewing to distribute among AFL members factual information on what the health insurance program supported by the AFL provides.

8. Heard Assistant Secretary of State Willard L. Thorpe explain the scope and effects of the International Trade agreement entered into at Havana last year.

The council and its affiliated departments disposed of a big backlog of other important business during the sessions here.

In reaffirming the AFL's dominant position in international affairs, the council made it plain that the 8,000,000 members of the AFL expect the United States government to stand firm in its opposition to communism and fascism wherever it is manifested throughout the world.

The council elaborated its previous approval of President Truman's point 4 program to aid underdeveloped areas. It emphasized the need for labor representation in the formulation of plans for technical aid to these underdeveloped nations.

The AFL Council:

Following are brief stories on actions taken by the AFL Executive Council at its midwinter meeting:

Oppose U. S. Nod For Franco Spain

Miami, Fla. — The AFL executive council called on the U. S. government "to adhere firmly to nonrecognition" of Franco Spain.

The council said in part:

"The executive council of the American Federation of Labor has again considered the question of our government according full diplomatic recognition to the Fascist dictatorship in Spain headed by Generalissimo Franco.

"We reaffirm our opposition to such recognition and call upon the State Department to adhere firmly to the policy of nonrecognition. We urge the President of the United States, the Senate Foreign Relations and the House Foreign Affairs committees to do everything in their power to assure a continuation of the policy of nonrecognition of the Falangist regime in Spain.

"We are convinced that the reasoning underlying the proposal to extend full recognition would inevitably lead our government from one fatal blunder to another. We cannot accept as a premise that in the present explosive international situation—in which Communist totalitarianism is the main danger of war—diplomatic recognition by the world's leading democracy has no moral implications whatsoever.

"On this basis, our government could logically hasten to extend such recognition to the Communist usurpers who, with the aid of imperialist Russia, have overthrown the legally-constituted government of China which was the very first one to resist totalitarian aggression.

"Nor can we agree with the contention that an American ambassador in Madrid could serve to hasten political and economic reform in Spain.

"On the contrary, such recognition only paves the way for extensive financial aid to a despicable despotism now in the throes of a crisis which, if not alleviated by outside aid, can lead only to its doom.

"Especially at this moment, when with Communist China as its spearhead, Russia is driving at a furious pace to put all of Asia under the yoke of totalitarian Communism, will the recognition of Franco have disastrous repercussions throughout the Far East.

"The American trade union delegates to the recent London Congress of the International Confederation of Free Trade Unions were united in their vigorous initiative to have a strong condemnation of the Franco dictatorship become the expression and the voice of the international free labor movement. Democratic labor can never forget that in Falangist Spain trade unions are prohibited, their activities outlawed, and their advocates imprisoned and even executed.

"We cannot emphasize too strongly that in Latin America, United States recognition of Franco would only lend more power to the brutal fists of the dictators who are dangerous enemies of democracy in the western hemisphere. It is no accident that the worst dictatorships in Latin America—Argentina, the Dominican regime, and Peru—are the ones that maintain diplomatic representatives in Madrid. Franco is a dangerous totalitarian force not only in Europe and Africa but also in Latin America where he has intimate connections with and serves as a model for the local dictatorships which are hostile to our democratic way of life. Any policy which weakens democracy in the New World also gravely undermines the capacity of our country to give effective leadership in the struggle for the preservation of human liberty throughout the entire world.

"At the very moment when the forces of world democracy and free labor are consolidating their ranks, let our government not divide them. At the very moment when additional millions of the common people are placing their faith in our country as the worthy defender of human freedom, let us not disappoint and discourage them.

"With all sincerity and strength at our command, we appeal to the President of the United States, to the Senate Foreign Relations and House Foreign Affairs committees and the State Department to stand loyally and firmly by the present policy of the United Nations towards the Fascist dictatorship in Spain."

FORMER PRESIDENT DIES

Washington. — Edward J. Brown, 56, former president of the AFL International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers, died Jan. 31 at George Washington Hospital following a kidney operation. He was president from 1940 to 1946 between terms of Dan W. Tracy, incumbent, and 12th AFL vice-president.

ENGRAVERS HONORED

New York.—Gold pins emblematic of 50 years service were presented to 50 members of the International Photo Engravers Union Local One of the AFL at the organization's 36th annual meeting. The presentation was made by Edward J. Volz, president of the international union.

Excise Taxes Seen Threat to Jobs

Miami, Fla.—Advocating immediate repeal of the wartime excise taxes, the AFL executive council said:

"Large sections of the membership of the American Federation of Labor have registered protests with the executive council against the continuation of the federal excise taxes imposed during the war on amusements, transportation, communications, cosmetics, leather goods, jewelry and many other products.

"When enacted, Congress referred to these excise taxes as temporary war emergency measures. Failure to repeal them since the end of the war constitutes a breach of faith with the American people.

"Today the government stands to lose tax revenues through the continuation of these excise taxes because of their strangling effect on business.

"The executive council desires to go on record as emphatically as possible for immediate action by Congress to repeal the excise taxes so that this unnecessary threat to business and employment can be removed."

Full Backing Voted New International

Miami, Fla. — The AFL executive council voted full backing for the newly-formed International Confederation of Free Trades Unions and welcomed the demonstration of unity of all sections of the U. S. labor movement in its establishment.

The council said in part:

"The executive council of the AFL hails the foundation of the International Confederation of Free Trade Unions as an event of inestimable significance in the history of world labor.

"In appraising the work of the International Conference and Congress leading to the establishment of the ICFTU, the executive council can only welcome and commend the inspiring and creative unity manifested by the delegations representing all sections of the bona fide trade union movement in our own country.

"The executive council is proud of the contribution made by the American Federation of Labor towards the creation of the ICFTU. We heartily endorse the active part played by our delegation in helping the London Congress attain its fruitful outcome. We are fully aware of the fanatic hostility and fiendish opposition the ICFTU will face from the Kremlin-controlled socalled WFTU. The reactionaries of all stripes will oppose the ICFTU as the true champion of free labor and human decency with all vehemence and violence, with unlimited recklessness and ruthlessness.

"The AFL cannot assure too strongly the workers on both sides of the Iron Curtain and even in the remotest corners of the world that we will spare no effort to enable the ICFTU to meet the difficult tasks before it and to fulfill its historic mission.

"We of the American Federation of Labor know that in the historic struggle between the forces of democracy and despotism, between the forces of peace and social progress and those of war and reaction, the responsibilities confronting American labor will be very great.

"The executive council wishes to stress these two points:

"1. Free trade unionism is the most effective bulwark against the spread of communism among the masses of the people throughout the world. Soviet Russia will not be able to extend its domain by internal revolution in any country where a strong and free trade union movement is functioning.

"2 This truth applies with special force here in America. The free labor movement in America is the true champion and the strongest defender of the free enterprise system. If the reactionary employers in this country would only recognize this truth perhaps they would quit fighting labor and be willing to accord to labor the same freedom of enterprise they are privileged to enjoy themselves under our system.

"We shall redouble our efforts to meet these responsibilities most effectively. We likewise recognize that the new and vastly improved situation in the world labor movement resulting from the establishment of the ICFTU places new duties before the American Federation of Labor. We shall endeavor to discharge these duties to the best of our ability in a spirit of true international labor solidarity and boundless devotion to human freedom, social justice and lasting world peace."

WIN $15 RAISE

New York.—The 350 members of the AFL Radio and Television Directors Guild accepted a $15 a week raise from the National, Columbia, American and Mutual broadcasting systems.

Machinists to Get Bid to Rejoin AFL

Miami, Fla.—In an important step toward labor unity, the AFL executive council voted to extend an invitation after 60 days to the International Association of Machinists to reaffiliate its 600,000 members with the American Federation of Labor.

AFL President William Green conferred with Machinists President A. J. Hayes on steps to iron out jurisdictional differences between the machinists and AFL unions.

Mr. Hayes was accompanied by Vice President Elmer E. Walker and Secretary-Treasurer Eric Peterson.

The rules of the machinists union require a referendum on the reaffiliation.

"We believe in a united labor movement," Mr. Hayes said. "Reaffiliation of the machinists with the AFL is one way to work for it. We are AFL-minded and hope the executive council will make it possible for us to reunite with the federation.

"If so, then we hope that some day the AFL and Congress of Industrial Organizations will unite on the economic field as they are cooperating on the political field so that we may be all the stronger in facing our common opposition."

The AFL supports the American Heart Association drive.

URGES U. S. RATIFY GENOCIDE TREATY

Miami, Fla. — The AFL executive council urged the U. S. Senate "to ratify promptly the Genocide Convention" of the United Nations prohibiting the crime of mass destruction of national, racial and religious groups.

"The AFL, which took the initiative in placing the slave labor problem before the UN, considers this convention as an important first step towards providing international sanctions against the destruction of life through slave labor," the council said.

"Though the crime of genocide has in recent years been most gruesomely perpetrated by the Nazis, it is not limited to any particular country or nation. It is a criminal menace of world-wide implications. It has been committed in the mountains of Greece, in the Balkans, in Siberia, and in the Baltic lands.

"Behind the iron curtain—and particularly in Soviet Russia—governmental authorities have developed a fiendish plan based on 'cultural grounds' and have launched a terrific campaign to wipe out entire groups of their population. The new drive to make impossible the continued existence of Jews in Russia and in its satellite areas is going on under the flag of a savage war against so-called cosmopolitanism.

"Here is terrifying confirmation of the fact that prompt international action to check the spread and stop the perpetration of this heinous crime is most urgent. Otherwise humanity is likely to be confronted by still more new manifestations and variants of genocide in various parts of the world."

The A. F. of L. Weekly News Service gives news accounts and editorial interpretations of matters affecting labor occurring in the industrial, legislative, and judicial fields, and contains other information of benefit to the trade union movement.

AMERICAN FEDERATION OF LABOR
WEEKLY NEWS SERVICE
SUPPLEMENT

Samuel Gompers Said:
The object of organized labor is to make the home more beautiful, to go down to the very lowest and lift them up, to make today brighter than yesterday and each day brighter than the one which has gone before.

WILLIAM GREEN, *President* WASHINGTON, D. C., FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 10, 1950 GEORGE MEANY, *Secretary-Treasurer*

Unions Ask Voice In Ruhr Control

Frankfurt, Germany.—Trade unions from the 7 countries participating in the control of the Ruhr have demanded that the free trade unions be given full participation in the control of coal, iron and steel industries in the Ruhr.

The demand was formulated at a closed conference held Jan. 15 and 16 at Aachen.

The unionists voted that representatives should be named by each country participating in the control, with the union representatives having the same voice as the principal representative of his country.

The conference appealed to the signatory powers of the Ruhr Statute to appoint labor representatives, with the unions represented restricted to those belonging to the International Confederation of Free Trade Unions.

The conference further voted support to the proposal that the international control authority, now limited to the Ruhr, be extended into a system of planning and control over the heavy industries of western Europe.

Thus, the international free trade union movement has taken an important step toward achieving an understanding and a common policy on the Ruhr problem holding that its solution can only be a part of the total solution of the problem of all European heavy industries.

German delegates indicated they thought that the only unionists who displayed political independence at the meetings were Germans and Americans. They reported they found a reluctance in the others to take a stand for internationalizing European heavy industry because such a stand might embarrass "their party" either in participating in the government of their country or forming the opposition.

Irving Brown, AFL representative in Europe, and Elmer Cope, CIO representative in Europe, were American spokesmen.

Other countries represented were Great Britain, France, Belgium, Holland and Luxembourg.

AFL Union Talks To Stockholders

New York.—In a too-rare display of labor - management cooperation, a spokesman for an AFL union was a guest speaker at the annual stockholders meeting of A. G. Spalding & Bros., Inc., of Chicopee, Mass.

John Morin, former president of the AFL local which has a contract at the Spalding plant, was introduced by Company President Charles F. Robbins.

Mr. Morin told the stockholders that the AFL union recognizes that management and labor "need each other to make a team." He said that profits are recognized as necessary to the success of both labor and management and that investors are entitled to a "reasonable return" on their money.

AFL records show that the Spalding company and the AFL union have enjoyed harmonious relations over many years based on the company's cooperation in making available its financial reports and information pertinent to its ability to pay fair wages.

The AFL has urged that all employers enter into intelligent collective bargaining on company records.

PRICES DOWN, WAGES UP

Washington.—"The U. S. economy functions at its best when businessmen keep the prices of their products low in order to spur increased consumption," says Commerce Secretary Charles Sawyer.

Because wages increased while prices dropped in the United States, average consumers in 1949 had the best year in U. S. economic history, he asserted. Under the formula of lower prices and increased consumption, he said, consumers have been able to buy increasing quantities of goods and services with progressively less labor.

MORE GOMPERS VICTORIES

Milwaukee, Wis.—The 9th Region of the AFL United Automobile Workers of America has reported winning 2 more local unions. The victories are in keeping with the Auto Worker's pledge to cooperate to the fullest in the AFL Gompers centenary drive to bring one million members into the federation in 1950.

California Liked Beichman on 'Sun'

San Francisco.—The California State Federation of Labor weekly news letter liked Arnold Beichman's incisive diagnosis of why the New York Sun died. The piece was published and distributed by the AFL News Service on Jan. 10, 1950. The California publication said:

"When Arnold Beichman, New York correspondent for the AFL News Service, wrote that the 'New York Sun, an ultra-rightest, vitriolically anti-labor journal, died after living to an overripe old age of 117 years,' he wasn't fooling."

The California letter quotes further from the Beichman piece and adds its own comment:

"Dewart (Thomas W., president and publisher of the Sun) issued the best post-mortem when he listed those things his sheet had constantly espoused. He included 'free enterprise' and 'sound money,' but nary a mention of workers' rights or social reform."

Brown Confers With Greek Leaders

Athens, Greece.—Irving Brown (right), AFL international representative, confers with Greek labor leaders on strengthening the democratic trade unions in that country. Talking to Brown, l. to r., are Demetrios Zeppos, Greek Minister of Labor; Fotis Macris, secretary-general of the Greek Confederation of Labor, and John T. Correll, labor attache of the U. S. Embassy. All were guests of the U. S. Economic Cooperation Administration Mission.

Paper Makers Turn Back Tainted Gift

Albany, N. Y.—The AFL International Brotherhood of Paper Makers has turned back $600 cash and a medal to Freedoms Foundation which President Paul L. Phillips exposed as a front for American reactionaries.

"We return herewith the check for $600, together with the 'medal' which you recently presented to the International Brotherhood of Paper Makers for 'Americanism,'" Mr. Phillips wrote.

"The International Brotherhood of Paper Makers refuses to accept these 'prizes' because the activities of Freedoms Foundation prove its operation to be at variance with the pleadings implied in the name of the foundation.

"It was only when the list of prize winners was made public, and the names of some of the financial backers were revealed, that we realized we were right smack in the middle of what was simply just another group promoting the propaganda spewed forth by the National Association of Manufacturers."

The award was offered ostensibly for The Paper Maker's "contributions to democracy." The Paper Maker is published by the IBPM.

The award included $600 cash for use in any way the IBPM might choose, and a gold medal.

The IBPM branded Freedoms Foundation an organization with a lofty name, but with ideals that do not match the name. Union officials described the foundation as a phony front for wealthy men, no more dedicated to true democracy than is the National Association of Manufacturers.

SEEK TO SETTLE PITTSBURGH CASE

Pittsburgh.—Efforts toward a negotiated peace between the Pittsburgh public schools and AFL maintenance men went forward under a three-week truce.

Both sides agreed on an extension to Feb. 27 of Common Pleas Judge A. Marshall Thompson's hearing on the Board of Public Education's injunction action against the AFL Building Trades Council.

The board got a temporary court order banning AFL picketing and "interference" with school operation.

School Business Manager H. H. Rothrock said the new discussions were over arbitration of the dispute. It began the first of the year when the board refused to pay increases to 93 AFL maintenance men and suggested its budget called for cuts instead.

When the men didn't report for work, the board declared their jobs vacant and began hiring non-union men at less pay. Picketing and supply cutoffs led to court action by the board.

Remember Gompers. Buy stamps!

STAMP PRAISED

Washington.—The Evening Star stamp editor reports that the Samuel Gompers commemorative stamp issued Jan. 27 on the 100th anniversary of the founder of the AFL "is being praised for the beauty and dignity of design." Victor S. McCloskey, jr., is the artist and the engraving was done by Charles A. Brooks and Axel W. Christensen.

WIN MENASHA PLANT

Menasha, Wis.—Bindery and shipping room employes of the George Banta Publishing Co. voted 85 to 64 in a National Labor Relations Board election to be represented in collective bargaining by the AFL International Brotherhood of Bookbinders. Charles Lux, international representative, is now forming a local of the bookbinders union.

TO SPEAK IN PHILLY

Harrisburg, Pa.—AFL President William Green will address the annual convention of the Pennsylvania Federation of Labor in Philadelphia in May. The convention will coincide with the AFL's 5th annual Union Industries Show, May 6-13.

Hey, Editors!

Washington.—There's been a mixup in mats sent you this week.

Make sure that engravings and cut lines of the two mats entitled "Doherty Talks Stamps With Officials" (sent Tuesday, Feb. 7) and "Brown Confers With Greek Leaders" (sent today, Feb. 10) conform to the copy in the news service for those dates.

Inadvertently, the engravings on the mats were switched. In the form editors have received them, the cut lines and pictures don't match.

Post Office Clerks Make Annual Drive

Washington.—The AFL National Federation of Post Office Clerks is conducting its annual "Bring-a-Brother Campaign" to get every eligible employe into AFL membership.

President Leo George said in a letter that the drive enlists the cooperation of every member.

"The effectiveness of the federation has been so well demonstrated that it has been a steadily growing organization throughout its existence," he said. "Its maximum effectiveness can be achieved only by one hundred percent enrollment of the eligible post office clerks and substitute clerks."

Mr. George urged every effort to organize each post office 100 percent.

"January 1, 1950, there were in good standing 89,657 members in the National Federation of Post Office Clerks," he said. "This campaign should increase that figure to not less than 100,000 and it can be done if every present member will give his or her support."

The drive runs until May 15.

Frank Edwards reports the news at 10 p.m. Monday through Friday on MBS.

Likes Souvenir

Washington.—AFL President William Green looks with pleasure at the souvenir folder of pictures and programs of his visit last Labor Day with the San Diego, Calif., Central Trades and Labor Union, sent to him recently by his hosts on that occasion. The memento is titled, "The San Diego Story Starring William Green and the American Federation of Labor."

Democratic Leaders Predict a Beneficial Session of Congress

Washington.—Leaders of the Democratic party in Congress predict that the second session of the 81st Congress, now a month old, will be fruitful and beneficial for the American people.

This session has already enacted into law repeal of the federal tax on oleomargarine and amendments liberalizing the Hatch Act to permit government employes to participate in local elections in Virginia, Maryland and Oak Ridge, Tenn.

Democratic spokesmen who pledged fulfillment of much of President Truman's Fair Deal program are Sen. Scott W. Lucas of Illinois; House Speaker Sam Rayburn of Texas, and House Majority Leader John W. McCormack of Massachusetts. They made the pledges in recordings distributed by the AFL Labor's League for Political Education.

Mr. Lucas said: "This is going to be a session with many controversies, many legislative battles, many important issues which will vitally affect the lives of the American people all over the world. But I believe it will be a very productive session, which will enable us to go to the voters in November with pride and confidence in our achievements.

"We are certainly going to take final action on a social security bill, which, if we follow the House action, will place an additional 11 million Americans under the protection of our social security system. We are going to increase the amounts which can be obtained by those now included under the security law.

"We will seek the enactment of a middle-income housing law, to make it possible for millions of Americans with moderate incomes to obtain good housing at prices they can afford. Because our housing shortage is still acute, we will strive to extend rent control for another year on a local option basis which will be fair to landlords as well as the tenants.

"Now pending in the House of Representatives are two measures of great importance to the American people—a bill to create a National Science Foundation, and a bill to provide federal aid to education. Both these bills were passed by the Senate in the 1949 session, and I believe that the House will act on these two fields before adjournment this year."

30 States Ask Loans For Public Housing

Washington.—More than one billion dollar's worth of new low-rent public housing for low income families is moving into the planning stage in 109 localities in 30 states with the help of $19,838,000 in federal planning loans.

Commissioner John Taylor Egan of the Public Housing Administration announced that the funds will be advanced in installments as the money is needed. First advances, amounting to $2,379,020, already have been made to 80 of the local housing authorities.

In all, planning loans have been approved by local governments for 227 communities. These loans total $35,801,000 and will cover the planning of 221,391 low-rent homes.

Only families who cannot afford adequate private housing will be eligible to rent the public housing dwellings, Mr. Egan said.

Texas with 20 loan requests, New Jersey with 13, and California with 9 lead the states in seeking funds.

The AFL supported the Housing Act of 1949 and is now urging passage of a bill to provide cooperative housing projects for moderate income families.

Germans to Learn Kitchen Know-How

Washington.—How the American housewife adds to her country's as well as her family's economic well-being through her efficiency on the farm and in the kitchen will be studied by 4 German women teachers of rural home economics.

The Economic Cooperation Administration said that the German team is the first all-female group to make a Marshall Plan study under ECA's technical assistance program.

The teachers will go into homes to see the American housewife in her own kitchen. They will watch American farm women do their farmyard chores. They will observe home economics teachers in classrooms and technicians in laboratories. They will study modern kitchen equipment and modern methods of canning and preserving foods.

Our Goal: 1,000,000 new AFL members in 1950.

U. S. EMPLOYES DROP

Washington.—The U. S. government employed 1,979,500 persons on Jan. 1, 1950, a drop of 8,600 from Dec. 1, 1949.

Dan Smyth Talks To Labor Editors

Chicago.—Dan Smyth, Chicago correspondent for the AFL News Service, participated in one of the panel discussions on "Publicity," at the public relations conference for labor paper editors held by the University of Illinois.

One of the chairmen of the conference planning committee was Irwin E. Klass, editor of the Chicago Federation News.

Spare No Effort to Arouse Voting Spirit, Unions Told

Miami, Fla.—The AFL executive council flashed 1950's rallying cry for democracy to 8,000,000 members in these words:

> "The executive council directs that no effort be spared in the coming campaign to arouse widespread public interest in the election and to assure full registration and the largest possible vote."

The action, contained in a pin-point condemnation of the Taft-Hartley law, climaxed the busy midwinter meeting of the council held here.

Among other things, the council urged the U. S. Senate to adopt the liberalizing amendments to the displaced persons law as passed by the House. It said these amendments are no threat to American employment. It opposed efforts to restrict admittance of displaced persons more narrowly than is now provided by the bill.

The council said that repeal of the Taft-Hartley Act remains the Number One legislative objective of the AFL. Following is the text of its statement:

"Repeal of the Taft-Hartley Act remains the Number One legislative objective of the American Federation of Labor. We will never relax nor relinquish this fight until that disgraceful law is wiped from the statute books of the nation.

"Experience under the Taft-Hartley Act has deepened labor's conviction that the law is thoroughly unjust, completely unworkable, and doomed to failure.

"It has failed to improve labor-management relations. It has failed to prevent damaging strikes and lockouts. It has failed to bear out the hypocritical claim of its sponsors that it would protect the public interest.

"On the contrary, it has enmeshed labor-management relations in a growing tangle of restrictive regulations which have become so contradictory that not only employers and unions, but even the National Labor Relations Board and its chief counsel are constantly at odds as to what the law really provides.

"Furthermore, instead of reducing time lost due to strikes and lockouts, the Taft-Hartley Act has actually provoked new conflicts in industries which previously had enjoyed peaceful and cooperative relations for years.

"The executive council wishes to emphasize that organized labor is ready and willing to support to enactment of new legislation, based upon the original Wagner Act, once the Taft-Hartley Act is repealed. We proposed to Congress last year and still favor a new law that will be fair to both management and labor and will fully protect the interests of the general public.

"As the situation now stands in Congress, we cannot hope for immediate success in this endeavor because a coalition of reactionaries from both parties controls a working majority in both House and Senate.

"Labor therefore looks to the coming congressional elections as its best hope for the future. We will see to it that the Taft-Hartley issue is made one of the major issues of the campaign. We will appeal to the American voters for a mandate so clear and so unmistakable that the next Congress will feel obliged to carry out the expressed will of the people.

"We find that it is no coincidence that the same reactionary elements in Congress who oppose Taft-Hartley repeal are also blocking legislation to protect the economic interests of American farmers and small businessmen. Members of Congress whose first loyalty is to big business consistently vote against labor, the farmers and small business.

"The executive council directs that no effort be spared in the coming campaign to arouse widespread public interest in the election and to assure full registration and the largest possible vote.

"We are convinced that if all American workers and the eligible members of their families and their friends make certain to register and vote, the liberal forces in America can win a conclusive victory over reaction and Taft-Hartleyism next November."

FILM OFFERED

New York.—The AFL Workers Education Bureau offers at $10 per copy a 14-minute filmstrip on "Making the Union Click." The film tells how "Mack," frequently an absentee union member, discovers that union meetings are interesting and worth attending when they are streamlined and deserving of intelligent member support. Write the bureau, 1440 Broadway, New York 18, N. Y.

787 Workers Gain Wise Old Owl Club

New York.—A total of 787 industrial workers—783 men and 4 women who saved their sight by remembering to wear safety glasses—have qualified for membership in the Wise Owl Club of America since it was organized 16 months ago by the National Society for the prevention of Blindness.

Each year in American industry an estimated 300,000 eye injuries occur, with some 1,100 resulting in blindness in one or both eyes, the society said. The economic loss due to eye accidents to both employers and employes runs to more than $250,000,000 a year.

New York City Honors Gompers

New York.—In his adopted home city of New York, Samuel Gompers, founder and first president of the AFL, was honored on the 100th Anniversary of his birth last Jan. 27 by ceremonies on the steps of the general postoffice. Postmaster Albert Goldman (second from left) presents framed block of the Gompers commemorative stamp to James C. Quinn, secretary-treasurer of the New York Central Trades and Labor Council. William C. Collins (third from left), regional director of the New York Federation of Labor, and Moe Rosen, vice president of the New York Central Trades and Labor Council, hold similar gifts of stamps.

The AFL Council:

Following are brief stories on actions taken by the AFL Executive Council at its midwinter meeting:

U.S. Senate Asked To Speed DP Bill

Miami, Fla.—The AFL executive council called upon the U. S. Senate to adopt the displaced persons bill, as passed by the House, to liberalize entrance into this country of unfortunate victims of foreign tyranny.

The council said the bill the AFL supports "does not in any way jeopardize employment opportunities of American workers." It opposed amendments which would "vitiate the whole spirit and purpose of more liberal displaced persons legislation."

The text of the council statement follows:

"The American Federation of Labor has consistently supported the enactment of liberal, humane and workable legislation designed to aid the suffering displaced persons who are victims of the World War. We believe that the U. S. should be willing to assume its fair share of the responsibility of all free nations to provide a new homeland for these shattered families who can call no land their own. Accordingly, the 68th annual convention of the AFL went on record unanimously in favor of liberalizing amendments to the present displaced persons law. These amendments were included in H.R. 4567 which was passed by the House of Representatives.

"Now the executive council calls upon the U. S. Senate to adopt this bill as passed by the House.

"We oppose recently introduced amendments which seek to prohibit further admissions of displaced persons whenever unemployment in the United States reaches 4,000,000 or whenever the number of married couples living in doubled-up dwelling units exceeds 2,000,000. These limitations are so close to existing unemployment and housing figures that adoption of the amendments would render the new law inoperative at the very outset.

"Fully adequate protections concerning housing and unemployment are contained in the present law and have been reenacted by the House in H.R. 4567. Indeed, the AFL has repeatedly pointed out that even these requirements are difficult to administer and hamper the purpose of the law, as experience has shown.

"The AFL would be the first to protest against legislation which actually undermines the job security of American workers or which really restricts their housing opportunities. But we know from experience that the admission of displaced persons at a limited rate, widely dispersed throughout the country and in practice dispatched to areas of labor shortage does not in any way jeopardize employment opportunities of American workers nor seriously aggravate housing shortages.

"The purpose of these new amendments must therefore be recognized for what it is—a device to vitiate the whole spirit and purpose of more liberal displaced persons legislation.

"The executive council also protests against the proposal offered in the Senate to redefine displaced persons so as to include millions of German expellees. They are not genuine displaced persons as understood by the International Refugee Organization. Their expulsion was due to their identification with the worst elements of Nazism. The purpose of the displaced persons law is not to offer refuge to those responsible for international crimes, but to the helpless victims of those crimes."

OFFER 21,751 SCHOLARSHIPS

Washington.—The United Nations Economic and Social Council reports that 21,751 scholarships and educational grants for foreign study, observation and research are available to persons interested in study abroad. The United States is credited with 5,096 awards in the new pamphlet, "Study Abroad," available at $1.25 each from Columbia University Press, 2960 Broadway, New York, N. Y.

700 BRITISH UNIONS

London.—There are more than 700 trade unions in Great Britain representing 9,000,000 members.

Point Four Speed Urged For Asia

Miami, Fla.—The AFL executive council urged the U. S. government to speed application of President Truman's Point Four program for underdeveloped areas, especially in Asia.

The council demanded that labor be adequately represented in the formulation of Point Four policies. The council said in part:

"In view of the disaster which has befallen the great Chinese people through the overrunning of their country by the Russian-directed military forces and fifth column operating under the orders of the Cominform, the executive council underscores the great urgency of speeding up the application of Point Four policies in the non-Communist areas and countries of Asia.

"In line with our convention declaration, we urge our government to aid the republic of India in overcoming its immediate food difficulties, in developing public education and in the improvement of her public health. We also urge American initiative in the World Bank for a loan to speed the development of an agricultural extension service in India.

"Vigorous and generous application of Point Four in Formosa, where encouraging economic achievements have already been obtained through the Joint Commission on Rural Reconstruction, will not only further improve the economic and social conditions on this very important island of resistance to Communist totalitarianism in China, it will also dramatize to the people of occupied China and to freedom-loving people everywhere that America has not turned its back on the struggle for liberty and national independence in this vast Asiatic country with which our nation has always had the friendliest relations.

"We cannot reaffirm too strongly our convention resolution which emphasizes that labor must have adequate representation in the formulation and application of specific plans and policies and that technical aid to underdeveloped areas in Asia and elsewhere should include provisions for the transmission of bona fide trade union, cooperative, and farmers' 'know-how' which will enable the workers and peasants of Asia to build effective, democratic unions and self-help organizations.

"The successes attained to date through the European Recovery Program, in raising the levels of production in the countries aided only underline the necessity of preparing now for the time when the Marshall Plan as such will end. It is clear that in the interest of developing a sound and balanced economy in the free part of the world, the democratic nations must lose no time in combining the various measures taken under ERP and Point Four. There can be no effective integration of the economy of democratic Europe unless its economic life becomes more closely related with that of Africa, the western hemisphere and the democratic countries and areas of Asia. More and more western Europe should be able to find markets for its manufactured products in the underdeveloped countries. Given this common outlet, the various European national economies, which are competitive in many respects, would tend to integrate more easily."

JOINS INTERNATIONAL

Washington.—The AFL National Association of Letter Carriers has voted to affiliate its 100,000 members with the Postal, Telegraph and Telephone International. The main purpose of the organization is to combat communism in the labor movement throughout the world. Founded in 1923, the international has 750,000 members.

Give to the Heart Campaign.

SET MAINE DATE

Portland, Me.—The Maine Federation of Post Office Clerks will hold its state convention at Augusta, June 17 and 18.